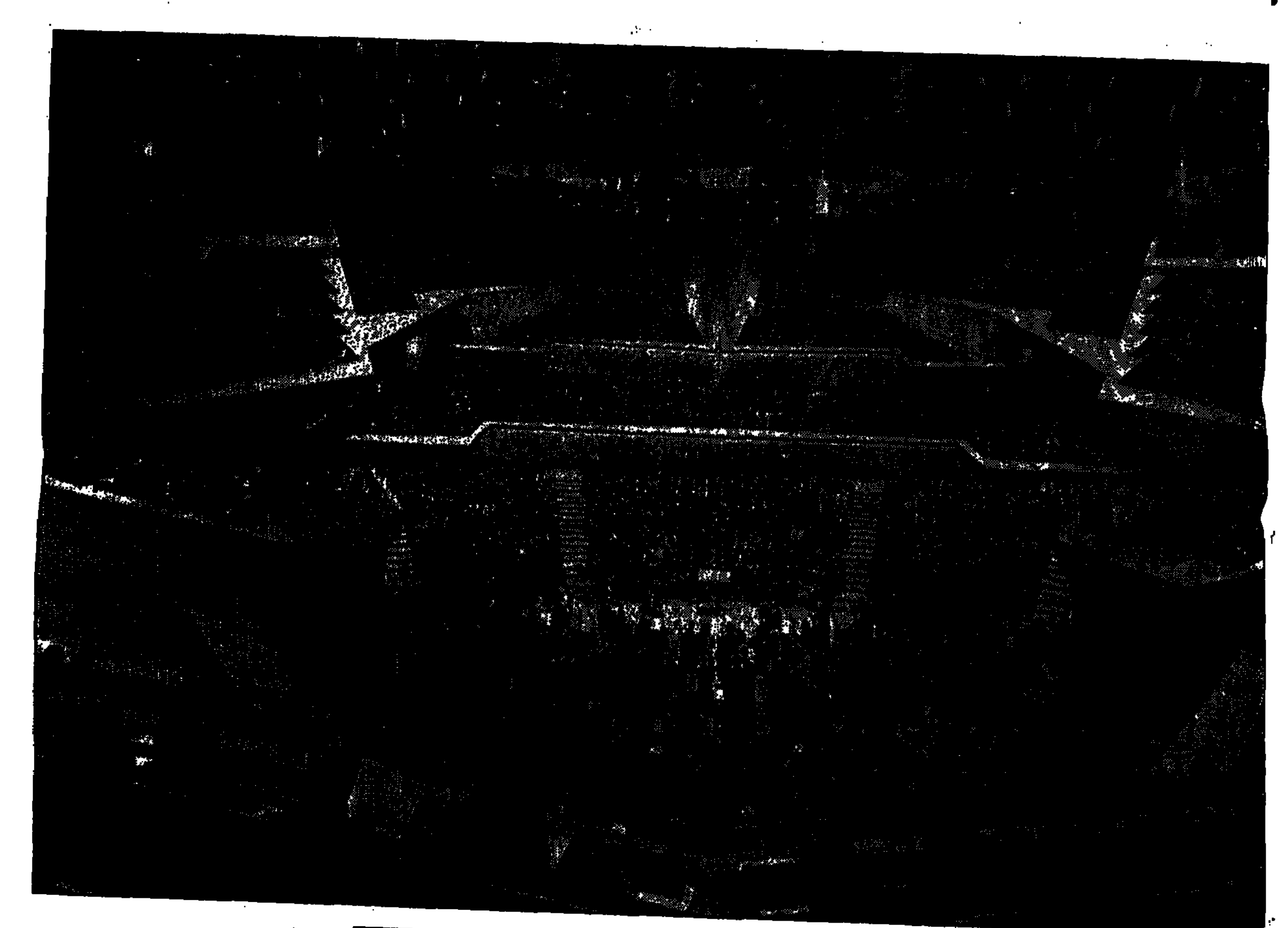
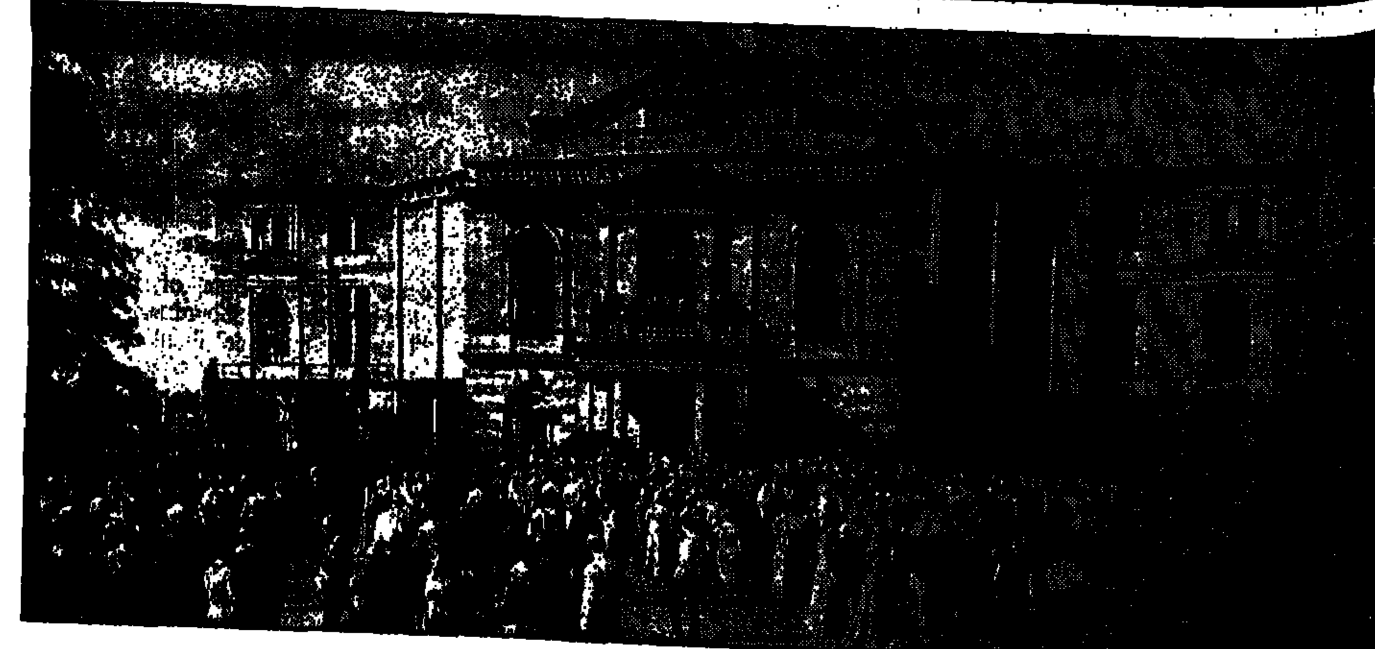
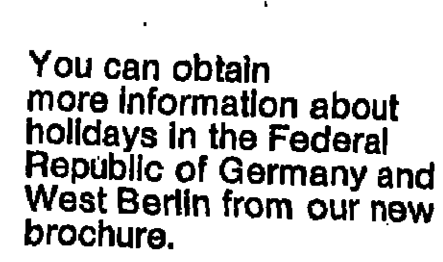






The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 1 May 1977
Sixteenth Year - No. 785 - By air

C 20725 C

EEC prepares for its talks with Washington



It has been a busy week for the Common Market, with Britain's Roy Jenkins, president of the European Commission, off to Washington to bask in he glory of world affairs — and just as well too, considering the bitter disappointments the EEC has suffered of late.

President Carter welcomed Mr Jenkins in the White House and Vice-President Mondale, whose first port of call after his inauguration was the European Commission in Brussels, held further talks with the top-ranking Eurocrat.

Other members of the Carter administration have also shown interst in the European Community.

Be it coincidence or sheer bad luck in planning, Mr Jenkins' visit to the United States coincided with a visit to Brussels by a US delegation to hold consultations on further cooperation.

The EEC has been active in other respects too. The Common Market Foreign Ministers met in London to coordinate their views within the framework of European political cooperation.

The agenda included both the Nine's viewpoint on Southern Africa and preparations for a joint approach towards the Helsinki follow-up conference in Belgrade.

Regular gatherings of Common Market Foreign Ministers occasionally reach decisions in their capacity as the EEC Council of Ministers or merely compare notes within the more informal framework of European political cooperation.

Despite the claims these consultations make on the Ministers' time they are popular with all concerned. Cooperation, it is generally agreed, is intensified by the ongoing dialogue.

While the Foreign Ministers were meeting in London, EEC Finance Ministers convened in Luxembourg. They too were mainly concerned with sounding out a common viewpoint on international conferences with a view to speaking with one voice.

At Luxembourg the Finance Ministers of the Nine reached partial agreement in preparation for the forthcoming IMF talks on new sources of funds to bail out the poorer developing countries who have been saddled with crippling debts as a result of the oil crisis.

The Finance Ministers also reviewed items that will be on the agenda of the Western economic summit to be held in London on 8 and 9 May. Here too the Nine were keen to arrive at a viewpoint shared by all members of the Common Market.

First and foremost it is a matter of the dialogue with the United States, which is currently characterised by clashes on nuclear power and ways and means of stepping up world trade and by increasing pressure brought to bear on President Carter to resort to protectionist measures against imports from Europe and Japan.

Until recently the talks in Brussels seemed certain to concentrate on President Carter's nuclear and energy policies. These are still sensitive issues but less likely to lead to a head-on clash now that Washington has signified its intention of taking the heat off.

This country's Guido Brunner, EEC commissioner with responsibility for energy policies (and thus for uranium supplies), has indicated that a resumption of uranium supplies by both the United States and Canada seems on the cards.

Mr Carter's original plan to impose severe restrictions on the export of nuclear fuel came as a shock to Brussels. The Common Market has for years been at odds with the United States on the EEC's common agricultural policy, which Washington claims, not without justification, to be protectionist.

In the past, however, the United States has usually maintained a healthy surplus in trade with the Common Market countries, so the farm produce irritant has not been feet too keenly.

It has indeed been dubbed a trade war between frozen chickens on the one hand and cognac on the other, and the hue and cry have been artificially stimulated and made no real inroads on transatlantic ties.

President Carter has been fulsome in his praisé of the European Community, and this praise has been considered a godsend in view of the disdain voiced by a number

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



Spanish Royal Couple in Bonn

Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia being welcomed by President Walter Scheel and his wife Mildred in Bonn. With them are the two Scheel children, Simon Martin and Andrea Gwendolyn. The Spanish Royal Couple spent five days on a State visit to this country from 19 April (Photo: dpa)



The new Indian Premier Morarji Desai with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in New Delhi (Photo: dpa)

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visits New Delhi

No one was expecting too much to come of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's visit to New Delhi, of course, but this alone is not sufficient to account for its success.

Herr Genscher not only cut a good figure in the Indian capital, but also conveyed the impression that ties between Bonn and New Delhi are on the verge of substantial improvement.

His brief visit itself came to assume substantial proportions, with Indian Foreign Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee cordially noting that he would be spending slightly longer in Bonn on his return visit.

Herr Genscher did not limit himself to commercial interests. He also devoted time to political cooperation, which India alone has been anxious to extend in the recent past.

He sounded uncommonly enthusiastic about non-alignment, returning this particular ball to India's court. Bonn, Herr Genscher claimed, is not happy about countries being classified as either pro-West or pro-East.

This country, the Bonn Foreign Minister maintained, is opposed to the idea of both zones of influence and of exporting ideology. Bonn's aim, he stated, is to foster "genuine partnership."

Herr Genscher termed his visit a new chapter in relations between Bonn and New Delhi. This may, it is true, sound slightly exaggerated, but there can be no doubt that the cordial informality and expressions of mutual interest went beyond what has been customary in relations between the two countries.

Consultations scheduled for this August and the visit to Bonn later this year by the Indian Foreign Minister will show whether these promising words are to be followed action. (Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 April 1977)

■ EEC

The Nine still lack stimulus and a spirit of community

Too many national responses and too little community spirit is the Common Market's trouble, says Luxembourg Premier Gaston Thorn, a tireless European.

True enough, there is a growing impression that the Nine are marking time, not to say backtracking, as pessimists would have it.

M. Thorn called on the Nine to say clearly once and for all what kind of Europe they envisage. There has been no answer as yet, probably because the Common Market countries are none too sure what they want.

In view of the touch-and-go domestic situation faced by most EEC governments M. Thorn is asking a lot of his partners in Europe.

The Dutch government has tendered its resignation, Denmark has a minority government, President Giscard d'Estaing is in heavy weather, Mr Callaghan is grasping at every last straw in London and even the Bonn government does not look any too bright and breezy, let alone Italy.

The governments of the Nine almost all lack the firm ground at home that would enable them to embark on European ventures which are unlikely to win votes and may well entail setbacks.

What is more, the Nine are all making slow economic headway and nursing high unemployment rates, so they can hardly be blamed for feeling that charity begins at home.

They must first sort out their domestic difficulties, they argue. Then, and then only, will they be in a position to think in terms of further European integration.

The Nine are only too quick to forget that trade within the Common Market has increased tenfold over the past twenty years, that the others are their best customers and that the EEC as a whole is more likely to pull itself up by its own bootstraps if a joint effort is undertaken.

The indications are that a majority of the Nine will faint-heartedly try to maintain and administer the Common Market in its present form rather than embark on imaginative new ventures, particularly if marking time seems likely to prove not too expensive and possibly profitable.

Initiative needed

The prospects of further integration are poor. Initiative is at a premium. The Common Market lacks the stimulus that once was provided by personalities such as France's Robert Schuman or Belgium's Paul-Henri Spaak.

Sooner or later the failure to pursue progressive policies and the retreat to mere administration of a necessarily inadequate status quo would be bound to lead to a country's decline.

How much more so in the case of a paralysed supranational community such as the EEC!

The individual tends to identify himself with his country of origin. If the country is governed to rack and ruin new forces will come to the fore, possibly after a transitional period, to get the country back on its feet.



If, on the other hand, the Nine were to let the European Community go to rack and ruin the upshot would probably be altogether different.

The 260 million people living in EEC countries do not feel particularly beholden to the Common Market. They regard the European Community as an abstract concept, certainly not as their home in any way.

What is more — and worse still — the EEC is saddled virtually for good and all with a most unprepossessing (and not altogether unwarranted) image, that of an octopus which dips its hand in every till.

Given that the EEC has such a bad reputation, who is going to put it back on its feet if the governments of the Nine allow it to bleed to death? The Common Market would soon be forgotten.

So active and imaginative moves towards integration are a must if the EEC is not to atrophy, ending up its days as a better class of customs union, say.

The Common Market must neither be allowed to petrify nor left to flounder in a plethora of utopian concepts. Neither will make it sufficiently attractive to gain the support of the man in the street it so badly needs.

Direct elections to the European Parliament provide an example of the golden mean, the combination of the necessary and hte possible.

The Strasbourg assembly is frequently dismissed as a talking-shop merely because it is virtually powerless, and direct elections will not be accompanied by more far-reaching powers. The European MPs will have to bargain for power themselves.

They will need to do, thank heavens! If they make do with virtual impotence the turnout of Common Market voters will not be around forty per cent the second time round.

Half the first-time voters are sure to consider the whole procedure a waste of time.

A parliament without powers certainly does not merit the name, and directly-elected MPs will be sure to point out that they have a mandate and deserve a greater say in the running of Common Market affairs.

The fight for parliamentary controls will, like every step in the direction of a united Europe, be a gradual process. So many opportunities have been missed that it will take time for the general public to establish a personal relationship with the Common Market.

European politics is, like politics in general, merely the art of the possible, and the possible cannot be brought about by a bark of command.

Patience and persuasion are both needed in the full measure, but both are worth the effort.

Klaus Bohnhof

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 April 1977)

Bonn prepared to back Madrid's bid to join EEC

Bonn is prepared to back Spain's bid to join the European Community, King Juan Carlos was able to assume before he and Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Aguirre got down to details with President Scheel, Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher.

After the Spanish general election in June, Spain will be submitting a formal bid for membership of the Common Market. Bonn approves in principle, which will, when all is said and done, be a major consideration in deliberations among the Nine.

In common with other EEC countries the Bonn government is well aware of the difficulties, particularly in the agricultural sector, that Spanish accession to the EEC will entail. Thorough negotiations and detailed agreements will prove indispensable.

Bonn also takes seriously the misgivings voiced by a number of committed Europeans about enlarging the Common Market too fast. There can be no denying that British, Irish and Danish accession rendered the processes of political decision more cumbersome within the EEC.

"If things go on as they are, with fresh problems arising, but no further progress towards integration, the Community could be in trouble," Luxembourg Premier Gaston Thorn noted not long ago.

Bonn is nonetheless opposed to entry restrictions. "We have pledged ourselves to allow any democratic European countries who so wish to join the European Community. We must keep to our word. It is the only way we can maintain European credibility," one high-ranking Bonn diplomat puts it.

This is particularly true of Spain. The Bonn government, one is given to unde-

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

of Common Market heads of government about Brussels bureaucracy during the jostling for position in Mr Jenkins' new Commission.

But this honeymoon came to an abrupt end when Mr Carter imposed a ban on the export of super-enriched uranium to he EEC in the feeble guise of administrative difficulties.

High-ranking Brussels Eurocrat made no bones about their failure to understand why President Carter felt it necessary to resort to sledgehammer methods to back up his views on non-proliferation.

The Common Market incorporates an atomic energy community, Euratom, as well as an economic community, and the Nine had visions of their atomic energy programme coming apart at the seams.

Brussels was somewhat surprised to note that Bonn appeared to feel that uranium supplies were its own business rather than a problem facing the EEC as a whole. The French were subtler and more astute in their approach.

Within an EEC framework the French continually discussed with the Brussels Commission suitable moves that might be undertaken with regard to the United States in this matter.

Guido Brunner made good use of the diplomatic polish he had acquired in this country's foreign service, pointing out to high-ranking officials in Washington what Mr Carter's uranium export embargo meant as far as the Common Market was concerned.

Mr Schlesinger, energy adviser to the

EEC – US talks

new administration, promised to repay Herr Brunner's visit before long and seemed to appreciate that President Carter had put himself in a spot by adopting an all-or-nothing approach.

Now that America seems likely to resume supplies of super-enriched uranium and Canada too appears willing to resume deliveries of the mineral in its natural state, Brussels is no longer so embittered.

Talks with the US delegation need no longer culminate in mutual recriminations. They are now billed as negotiations on justified security requirements in respect of non-proliferation of material that could be used to make nuclear warheads.

The EEC delegation will be headed by this country's Wilhelm Haferkamp, commissioner with responsibility for foreign affairs, and the Brussels talks will pay greater attention to other topics.

The agenda includes the international economic situation, world trade and North-South ties. At a restricted working dinner more delicate issues, such as enlargement of the Common Market and measures in respect of Portugal, will be broached.

Europe is preparing to ward off fresh US attempts to boost world trade. President Carter may have reversed policies in his own country, but the Common Market view is that the matter requires further consideration.

EEC Finance Ministers have taken the precaution of checking what the Americans have so far done to stimulate world trade. The United States has indeed stepped up imports, but oil accounts for most of the increase, which hardly supports US claims that increased imports are helping other countries to boost their exports.

Should America ask Europe what it is doing to boost world trade Europe will calmly return the compliment, asking America what its contribution has been. Common Market negotiators are sounding a more self-confident note.

Heinz Stadlmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 April 1977)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Henry P. Sanders. — Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 22 85 1. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: 66 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 21 90 00. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 12 — Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number, which appears on the wrapper to the left of your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Debate on terrorism in the Bundestag



The scenes that presented themselves on two consecutive days could almost be termed macabre. One of these events was the Opposition's move in the Bundestag calling for more stringent anti-terrorist legislation.

There, the assassinated Chief Federal Prosecutor Siegfried Buback as the representative of our constitutional state was to give his name posthumously to ridiculously and pointlessly severe stipulations of the Criminal Code with regard to terrorism — stipulations which, in the final analysis, would amount to an over-reaction to terrorism by our state.

It seems evident that none of the CDU/CSU MPs read the obituary by their fellow party member and Buback's predecessor in office, Max Güde, to his successor.

In it, Herr Güde spoke of the fact that only unwavering justice can guarantee the rule of legality, and he warned of excess harshness which has the opposite effect from that which it is intended to achieve.

But this is not a time conducive to listening nor is it conducive to contemplation.

To those bent on simplifying and generalising, everybody who tries to maintain a certain proportion between crime and punishment is a sympathiser with the terrorists if he does not go along with the biblical an eye for and eye and a tooth for a tooth.

The second scene took place a day later in the fortified courtroom of Stuttgart-Stammheim where the trial of Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Karl Raspe has entered its final phase as tortuously as it has dragged through the past two years.

Baden-Württemberg's Minister of Justice, Traugott Bender, was not among the public in the courtroom.

And yet, as the man who had approved the electronic snooping on talks between prisoners and their attorneys, he was in evidence in the courtroom as even the court-appointed and state-paid defence counsellors saw themselves unable to do anything but call for a mistrial.

They pointed out that it was not inconceivable that Minister Bender's illegal snooping had at least indirectly affected the trial and the course of justice.

Indeed not inconceivable ... and the Court will have to deal with this aspect in trying to arrive at a judgment — even if there is little doubt as to the guilt of the accused.

If the constitutional state is to be worthy of its name it must prove itself not only by virtue of the mellifluous name and flimsy guarantees on paper. It can prove itself only by loyalty and adherence to its principles in times of challenge and provocation from without. And in doing so it must grant the protection of the law even to terrorists.

There is some hope that the majority of Bundestag members will bear this in mind when debating CDU/CSU plans for a "Lex Buback".

The most far-reaching question, namely whether or not the conversation between suspect and his attorney may be monitored, calls for a careful study of facts. One of these facts must be the question as to the concrete results of the Stammheim snooping and whether it has helped avert danger to life. All this bugging has done for sure is to have endangered the Stammheim trial.

The initiators of the Stammheim bugging affair should be asked to answer these questions even though they have been absolved from doing so by the Court.

There is reason to assume that they will find it difficult and embarrassing to answer truthfully. After all, the truth could dispel the suspicions that serve as a basis for this latest effort at bringing about supervision of privileged conversation.

Has no one asked himself what gives the defence attorneys in Stammheim the courage to file criminal charges against those responsible for the bugging if they have to fear that this might reveal their complicity in planned crimes?

Hans Schueler

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 April 1977)

Continued from page 2

rstand, has "sympathy, admiration and confidence" in Spain's progress towards democracy.

Bonn is convinced that this progress, notwithstanding the setbacks and problems it might encounter, will be brought to a successful conclusion. So it is only natural that Spain should be allowed to join forces with democratic Western Europe.

Initially, Bonn feels, the existing agreement between Spain and the EEC must be renewed and extended in scope. Then formal application procedures can get under way.

After the June general election the Council of Europe will doubtless invite Spain to join its ranks too. Bonn is very much in favour of this move being made without further delay.

Future relations between Spain and Nato are not yet such a pressing problem, but the question is sure to arise sooner or later. On this point Bonn feels it would not do to be overhasty.

In the very long term, however, Spanish membership of Nato must be considered. "After all," it is noted in Bonn, "Spain stands for the same ideals as the North Atlantic pact does."

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, 19 April 1977)

Trouble for SPD in both Hesse and Bavaria

Suspected of having been rather remiss in drawing a clear line between political mandate and personal business, the former Prime Minister of Hesse, Albert Osswald (SPD), resigned from his office as chairman of the Hesse Social Democratic Party.

During his term of office as Prime Minister of Hesse, Herr Osswald was deeply involved in the still not completely unravelled "Helaba (Hessische Landesbank) affair".

In Munich's Rathaus, too, the SPD is in deep water. Already weakened by Bavarian pig-headedness and municipal infighting, Munich's SPD has now split formally as well, and Mayor Kronawitter is once more, as in the past, only just able to hold onto the municipal reins.

Although there is no basis of comparison between Munich and Hesse — neither with regard to the situation nor with regard to the personalities involved, a long anticipated and indeed desirable contingency has now arisen:

The odium of corruption which threatened to poison the SPD in Hesse and in Munich from within is now beginning to dissipate. The shock effect is not excessive, and it can almost be said that a certain feeling of relief is spreading within the SPD.

But does that mean that the Social Democrats may now forget about the recent reports that wracked their camp and return to day-to-day business? Of course they may not.

Both the Hesse and the Munich events have made it clear where the SPD's power and reputation are most vulnerable, namely in the Town Halls of big cities, which have long been considered unbreachable SPD fortresses.

For the man-in-the-street the SPD has always been the epitome of moral integrity — above all, in financial matters.

Munich is no isolated case either. The Hesse municipal elections only anticipated what is threatening to happen in the Bavarian capital in 1978 — exactly what has only just happened in Frankfurt, namely the loss of absolute majority, which the SPD has come to take as its historix due.

But the SPD in Munich will only last that long if Herr Kronawitter's political patchwork, which has enabled him not only to remain in power, but even to consolidate this power somewhat, remains intact.

And what about the city-states Hamburg and Berlin where the Mayors, at the head of shaky coalitions, seem to be moving further and further away from the party rank and file?

By comparison, the Osswald case is, if not the mere misfortune of a private businessman, at least a rather isolated event.

Even if Herr Osswald succeeds in disproving charges of alleged bank credits at illegally favourable terms resulting from his position on the board of Helaba and of speculative real estate deals, his resignation as Hesse SPD chairman is a long overdue favour for his party.

Even without awaiting his possible vindication, Albert Osswald would be well advised to relinquish his seat in the State Parliament, because this man can no longer be of any use to the SPD in an official capacity of any sort.

Dirk Bavendamm

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 24 April 1977)

New handbook to help protect the environment

The fact that environment protection is one of Minister of the Interior Werner Maihofer's (FDP) responsibilities seems to have been forgotten in combating terrorism, the debate on the bugging affairs and ever-new pay demands by civil servants and other government employees whose ultimate employer he is.

The Ministry of the Interior, with its many specialised departments, is directly responsible for air pollution control, noise abatement and the cleanliness of our lakes and rivers.

It is the job of Werner Maihofer's environmentalists to see to it that the plethora of laws and regulations concerning the environment remain understandable for the individual and that the struggle for a clean environment does not bog down in a jungle of legislation.

The public relations work of the Federal and State governments concerning environment protection has been as much neglected as has the PR work with regard to energy policy.

And yet the measures implemented since the early seventies are certainly something to be proud of.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, the private and the public sectors combined will have spent an estimated DM110,000 million for environment protection in the period from 1971 to 1979; DM70,000 million were spent in the first three years of this period alone.

Up to now, most of the funds have been made available for measures against air and water pollution. According to the Ministry of the Interior, industry spent DM1,500 million for sewage processing in 1974 and DM1,150 million for anti-air pollution measures.

But most of these expenditures did not go into construction work. Government and industry, however, will spend DM75,000 million for the operation and maintenance of environment protection plants in the period from 1975 to 1979.

It is virtually impossible for the layman to keep track of the tide of laws, regulations and international agreements governing environment protection. Our regulations alone number 1,965 so far.

Of particular relevance are the Federal Emission Protection Law, the law governing the lead content in petrol, the Refuse Removal Law, the Detergents Law and the Water Economy Law.

Despite these achievements, environmentalists make no bones about the fact that many of the present regulations are not stringent enough. The necessity to cater to the needs of business and industry, to state jurisdiction and to habits which citizens are loath to give up have led to constant compromises.

The Ministry of the Interior now pins great hopes on the new environment handbook. This atlas of industry provides information to all concerned on where it is still possible to erect industrial installations without adverse effects on the environment and which regions of the Federal Republic of Germany have already reached their tolerance level of pollution.

Herr Maihofer is convinced that this guide will help prevent wrong decisions on the part of both government and business and thus save millions of deutschmarks.

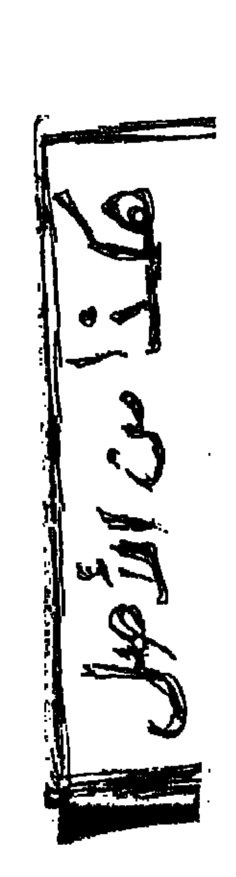
A telling example of bad siting is the coal-operated power station project in Voerde near Dinslaken. Environmentalists succeeded in obtaining a court order stopping the construction of the power plant due to anticipated air pollution.

According to the Ministry of the Interior, this clash between the public and the power station would have been avoidable had the atlas of industry been available at that time.

The recycling of old glass is becoming more and more fashionable. Charitable organisations collect such glass, thus serving both their own aims and the removal of waste. Following a suggestion by environment protection authorities, 62 private and municipal organisations have put up some 3,000 receptacles for used bottles and other glassware.

Diethart Goos

(Die Welt, 16 April 1977)



■ DEFENCE

Precision weapons won't replace soldiers, says military expert

Precision weapons will change the battlefield of the future and their accuracy will usher in a new phase of warfare.

Tactical rules will have to be redrafted when weapons are used which cannot miss. And troops equipped with such weapons will have to be restructured as will those troops whose task it is to combat these weapons. Thus the technical revolution will revolutionise warfare.

But does all this render the military principles on which strategy and tactical decisions have hitherto been based obsolete?

The military expert and writer Ferdinand O. Miksche attempts to answer this question in his study *Denkende Waffen* (Thinging Weapons) which appared in the April issue of the magazine *Wehrtechnik*.

The author, a former Colonel who ranks among Europe's top military experts, arrives at the conclusion that the use of precision weapons could mean that fewer nuclear devices will be used. The accuracy of such weapons would render many military rules and tenets out of date.

But such precision weapons would not lead to a reduction in the numerical strength of troops.

Says the author in his study: "The physical law whereby two energies neutralise each other if other forces exert á decisive effect also applies to the development of battle tactics.

"To the same extent as the offensive weapons of the two sides, such as tanks and fighter planes (as the basic elements of mobile warfare), eliminate each other as a result of perfected defence techniques, the classical infantry battle gains in importance.

"Since precision weapons can only be used effectively against major items of military hardware and not against small targets en masse the final victor will be that side which has the stronger battalions."

Colonel Miksche is an imaginative analyst and an out-and-out authority as a military thinker. He combines sound military research and tactical knowledge with visionary insights into future developments.

Miksche readily concedes that his ideas of future tactics could very well be wrong as have been most forecasts about forms of warfare and military operations.

But he maintains that, where tactics are concerned, there is a constant interplay of action and reaction. The deployment of new weapons demands of both attacker and defender ever new technical and tactical counter-measures.

These laws of warfare virtually impose the tactical rules which would in all likelihood apply for the immediate future should precision weapons be used in an armed conflict, thus making it relatively easy to come up with a tactical forecast.

Based on his main thesis, namely that military action centres around Man and not around technical equipment, Colonel Miksche first points to the weak spots of such large weaponry as tanks.

Not only are they becoming increasingly more expensive, but their combat weight is also increasing constantly.

Development costs, manufacturing difficulties and actual combat value are out of proportion with each other. A high degree of quality and a greater quantity can no longer be achieved in the armoured branch of the Forces.

Our present armoured units are now threatened by a defence system the technical development of which has by no means come to an end.

Moreover, anti-tank weapons can be mass-produced at a relatively low cost. As a result, the future in any duel between tank and anti-tank missile belongs to the latter.

According to Colonel Miksche, the rocket mounted on its own light armoured vehicle will always prove successful in combating the tank.

Canon launched guided projectiles (GLGP), the so-called "fire-and-forget weapons" are outstandingly accurate. In conjunction with other weapons that can be guided to their targets, such modern weaponry would first paralyse and then destroy any tank force.

Colonel Miksche points out that 58 air-to-surface Maverick rockets destroyed 52 tanks in the Arab-Israeli War,

Vice-versa, surface-to-air rockets downed 80 out of 105 Israeli aircraft. What Colonel Miksche wants to illustrate by quoting these facts is that precision weapons can render a mobile war stationary.

On this basis, the author quite logically arrives at his next conclusion. Since both sides will sustain losses, but precision weapons can hit only heavy enemy targets and not light infantry, the victor must necessarily be that side which has more infantry.

The author goes into considerably more detail in his arguments. Thus for instance he sketches, by means of figures, a possible "duel situation" of the future.

He draws attention to the fact that the Soviets have solved the relation between fighting potential and penetration potential by allocating two infantry division to each armoured division. Thus in Soviet operational considerations troops have priority in making up operational units.

In keeping with his ideas, Colonel *Miksche warned* against the German concept along the lines of "Brigade 80" whereby the number of troops would be reduced in favour of technology — in other words tanks and machinery.

Colonel Mische's latest study should prove simulating for both military experts and politicians.

Adelbert Weinstein

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 April 1977)

59 African soldiers training in Germany

DIE WELT

In explaining France's decision to use its military aircraft to airlift Moroccan troops to Zaire, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing said that France had to act on behalf of Europe because Africa as a continent is closest to Europe. What happens there, the President said, is above all the concern of Europe.

Does the Federal Republic of Germany act along the same lines? This question can to some extent be answered in the affirmative considering the fact that for some ten years this country's government has not only provided economic development aid to African countries, but has also helped train members of their Armed Forces.

In some instances Bonn also provides military equipment, although weapons are strictly excluded from such assistance.

So far, Zaire has not been among those African states which receive German assistance. But Bonn government circles are contemplating ways and means of including in their assistance programme not only Zaire, but also Nigeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Some of these countries *already receive* minimum assistance *which might* be intensified in the future.

At present there are only 59 African soldiers from 12 countries *being trained* by the Bundeswehr *in this country*, as follows:

Ethiopia: 3 automobile mechanics; Algeria: 3 Naval officers; Gabon, 14 pilots, aircraft mechanics and traffic controllers; Cameroon: 12 automobile mechanics and officers training as company commanders; Mali: 7 construction technicians and company commanders; Morocco: I general staff officer, Niger: 3 sappers and machinists; Libya: 2 Naval officers; Somalia: 3 automobile mechanics; Sudan: 11 company and battalion commanders.

French Army schools trained 3,586 foreign troops last year — many of them from Africa, The Bundeswehr trained about 2,000, of whom 1,800 came from Nato countries.

Apart from training African within the Federal Republic's Bundeswehr, Bonn also provides a small number of military advisers to African countries, among them Ethiopian, Somalia, Mali, Niger and — as of recently — Upper Volta.

Members of the Bundeswehr are sent to these countries to train their troops in operating communications installations, trucks and hospital equipment. The number of these advisers never exceeds ten and the cost is in virtually all cases below DM1,000,000.

According to Bonn, this type of assistance not only benefits the Armed Forces, but also the civilian population of the countries concerned since it promotes the development of an infrastructure.

The Federal Government maintains only few Military Attachés in Africa, namely at West German Embassies in Cairo, Rabat, Addis Ababa and Algiers.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, 16 April 1977)

Top brass discuss the Bundeswehr's public image

The theme of the 21st Commanding Officers' Conference of the Bundeswehr in Sindelfingen near Stuttgart is "How Do the Others See Us? "

Due to the exclusive character of this function, relatively few details of the discussion have leaked out. But the very subject of the meeting, which was attended by 300 generals, admirals and colonels, seems to indicate that the self-confidence of the Bundeswehr has improved considerably.

It is most unlikely that the Bundeswehr would have posed such a question and with such directness in its infancy. And even had it done so, the answer among the troops would have been given with a great deal of pessimism and self-pity.

Even in the late sixties, relevant segments of the Armed Forces considered themselves unloved by the public.

The so called Schnez study and similar revelations bear witness to this mood.

But things have calmed down in the meantime — and even the public is viewing the Armed Forces with more equanimity. In other words, the situation has "normalised" and the Bundeswehr is largely accepted although it is still unknown what the public's real attitude towards the Armed Forces is.

The leadership of the Bundeswehr — those who shape its views and its "Weltanschauung" — tend to overvalue the few concrete indications concerning the general attitude towards it.

This is particularly true with regard to opinion research results which were made public last October and according to which 74 per cent of the public consider the Bundeswehr "important or very important in view of the present international situation."

But in their joy over such a positive evaluation the Bundeswehr brass tends to overlook that this is not tantamount to an expression of esteem and defence preparedness on the part of the public. Defence preparedness is governed by other factors, and not least by the reliability of the Bundeswehr as an instrument of a democratic state, by faith in the defence ability of our Armed Forces and by the determination of the people to defend themselves, and this in turn depends on how high they value their own political and social order.

Encounters with "citizens in uniform" have taught the brass how modest they must be in their expectations on many points. And the Bundeswehr's own performance in the field of political education hardly gives rise to optimism. The same applies concerning the will for military self-assertion in case of a nuclear war.

According to polls carried out by the Allensbach Institute, 49 per cent of the population would rather "live under a Communist government" than defend out way of life "with all available means." Only 25 per cent would opt for defence in such a situation and 26 per cent expressed no opinion.

Considering that only 26 per cent considered Nato capable of defending itself (28 per cent denied this capacility) the light shed on the Bundeswehr is anything but flattering.

Christian Potyka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 April 1977)

■ POLITICS

Communists' overtures put Marburg SPD in awkward spot

Every tenth voter in the old University City of Marburg cast his ballot in favour of the Communist Party during the recent municipal elections in Hesse, a unique result in West German electoral history. How did it come to this and what will be the consequences?

According to a tourist brochure, the University City of Marburg on the River Lahn is a "mountain city which grew old while remaining young."

The winding streets, old fountains and half-timbered houses crouching at the foot of the old castle create a quaint and romantic student atmosphere.

But these impressions are deceptive, and in fact time has done anything but stand still in Marburg, the city of St. Elizabeth and the brothers Grimm or, as the tourist brochure puts it, the cradle of intellect.

The praise of a poet who maintains that Marburg is the "most wondrous thing under the sun" is somewhat ambiguous today because the old facades hide an exacting and demanding reality: The Communists have chosen the idyllic city as a rallying point and an example.

The Moscow-oriented Deutsche Kommunistische Partei (German Communist Party) — DKP — wants to show the rest of the country, using Marburg as an example, that a Popular Front or at least unified action on the part of all "progressive forces" is possible.

Following the municipal elections on 20 March, the DKP sent an open letter to the Social Democrats avowing its conviction that "a comradely and matter-of-fact discussion between Communists and Socialists is particularly necessary now." If the two parties were to join forces against the CDU, the letter went on to say, "Marburg could become on outstanding example for the Federal Republic of Germany as a whole."

This red hand of friendship is proffered by people who point to the French example while conveniently overlooking the difference between themselves and the French Communists.

The whole thing has noticeably embarrassed the Marburg SPD because the distribution of seats in the City Council has remained precarious following the latest municipal elections.

Everything seems quite clear-cut at first glance. The CDU received 14,689 votes (43 per cent); the SPD 12,617 votes (36.9 per cent). The FDP remained unchanged and the *Freie Wählergemeinschaft* (Independent Voters' Association) — FWG — received 3.4 per cent, thus failing to take the five per cent hurdle. And what about the DKP?

The Communists showed an increase from 3,263 votes (9.1 per cent) to 3,519 (10.3 per cent) and were thus in a position to increase the number of their City Council members from five to six. The CDU retained its 27 seats, while the SPD dropped from 24 to 23. There were no changes concerning FDP seats which remained static at three.

In their Party organ *Marburg Echo*, the Communists were jubilant. The paper spoke of "a tremendous success for the citizens of our city" and "an important contribution towards implementing a policy of peace and disarmament . . ."

The CDU as the largest party provides the Council President. This has hitherto been the Bonn MP and future Mayor of Frankfurt Walter Wallmann.

The SPD provides Marburg's Mayor in the person of Hanno Drechsler. Both Parties view the Communist successes with considerable apprehension and are rather worried about the danger that a DKP man might take up an honorary post as a councillor in the Rathaus.

Both are trying to forestall such a contingency by amending the statutes — a move which has been condemned as undemocratic by the DKP and by the FDP, which is drifting to the left.

The Christian Democrats — in line with their Marburg Deputy Mayor Bernhard Sülzer, who is also the cultural spokesman of the Hesse CDU — speak of a "trial for democracy". The SPD, on the other hand, is still undecided and extremely tense, wavering back and forth.

Should the SPD continue with its customary policy of supporting in the Rathaus only those matters which have previously been agreed upon with the CDU, it would harm our democratic processes. As a result, the left wing of Marburg's SPD is gaining the upper hand.

Cooperation with the CDU is becoming the more unpopular the closer the date heads for the Hesse State election. Says a Marburg SPD functionary: "In view of the circumstances, the obvious course of action would be confrontation rather than cooperation."

According to Christa Czempiel, the SPD Floor Leader in the Marburg City Council, such unloved cooperation with Marburg's particularly conservative CDU could lead to "infighting within the SPD, the outcome of which would be doubtful."

On the other hand, there is the DKP's "embracing strategy" which, if successful, could cast the most severe doubts on the Marburg SPD.

Apprehension is thus rife among Marburg's Social Democrats. Moreover, the SPD's municipal politicians are concerned about the constantly diminishing influence of their party, although they need not blame themselves for any major mistakes. The city administration maintains excellent relations with the citizens, and a well-planned rehabilitation of Marburg's Old Town is considered exemplary. The source of the dilemma is the Communists. The romantic university city is considered a fine example of Communist strategy which demands that they pick a favourable place in which to draw attention to themselves and come to the fore. Above all in the University's Social Sciences sector there are, according to a CDU documentation, "Soviet-Marxist oriented reformers at work to the detriment of our country."

A view of Marburg showing the castle

(Photo: Archiv)

The CDU in the State Parliament has already suggested that this entire complex of social studies, dubbed "Specialised Studies 03" be abolished. This led to heated controversies at the time, and the CDU was accused of being "harmful and destructive" because much of what it criticised no longer existed anyway.

But according to leading Social Democrats, too, the Communist influence in the Specialised Studies 03 sector extends all the way down to the last typist and assistant. Anybody objecting to Red influence is termed an "anti-Communist" and ostracised.

The Allgemeine Studentenausschuss (General Students!' — ASTA — of Marburg University consists of DKP Communists.

Marburg has about 15,000 students who provide about half of the city's Communist voters. The other half of Communist voters are primarily Marburg citizens who are generally considered "protest voters".

DKP sympathisers among the students in conjunction with ASTA are basically orderly. They paint no slogans on walls and generally behave like citizens who are only interested in promoting the interests of students and the middle class. Marburg Communists were so touchingly concerned about preserving an old pharmacy that the owner considered herself duty-bound to permit them to paste Communist Party posters on her walls.

Marburg's Social Democrats know about the dangers inherent in the Communists' proffered hand. Says SPD Mayor Drechsler: "The Communists oppose everything that burdens and bothers the citizen, and they promote only popular issues."

Marburg's DKP Chairman, Ulli Stang, sess it in a different light. Says she: "We see to it that the citizens keeps his money."

The DKP in Marburg would like the "big ones" to bear a greater share of the gas and electricity price burden.

If the Federal Government had not waived DM1,000 million worth of taxes due from the Flick heirs, Marburg's share would have amounted to DM1.167 million.

A slogan in Marburg's Communist headquarters reads: "It's worthwhile having Communists in Parliament".

Marburg's Communists, rather conspicuously supported by the German Trade Union Federation, offer the citizens legal aid, fight for rent freezes and are active in noise abatement programmes. They oppose the construction of an abattoir and demand that there be no repetition of mistakes like the demolition of the old and historic "Inn on the Lahn."

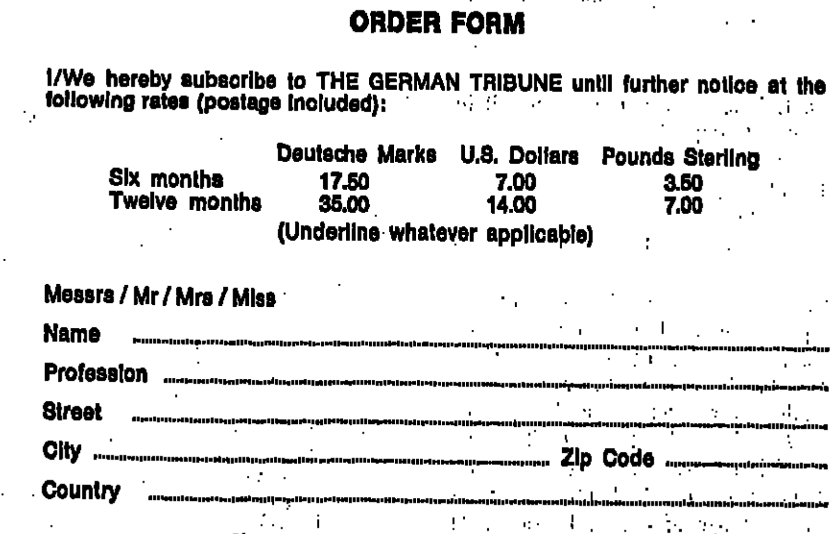
They tell the citizen exactly what he wants to hear and are extremely adept in creating the impression of exemplary activity on behalf of the people.

Small wonder, then, that people are heard saying to each other: "What decent fellows!"

The other parties are somewhat at a loss as to what todo. The SPD, for instance, is facing a major test due to Communist overtures one the hand and wooing by the CDU on the other. Says the SPD's Christa Czempiel: "A ridiculous situation to be in!"

Lothar Labusch

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 April 1977)



■ SPACE RESEARCH

Round-the-clock watch for meteorites continues

Jumbo meteorites weighing between one and several dozen tons cross the Earth's path far more frequently than was generally considered to be the case a decade ago.

Basing their assumptions on the frequency of small meteorities weighing up to a few hundred grams, scientists now conclude that one-tonners occur about a hundred times more often than they had imagined and ten-tonners maybe a thousand times more frequently.

They seldom penetrate the atmosphere, however, much to the chagrin of research scientists who have manned observation posts for more than a decade in the hope of registering the impact of a meteorite and locating one such recent visitor from outer space.

The observation posts are fitted out with cameras that scan the night sky. One of the first was set up at Czechoslovakia's Ondrejov observatory in 1951.

Its first reported success came on 7 April 1959 when the cameras recorded the trajectory of a meteorite with the magnitude of minus nineteen, or 250 times brighter, in other words, than the full Moon.



The remains of this fireball were actually found near Pribram, Czechoslovakia: 8.3 kg of olivin, bronzite and chondrite meteorite rock.

The Pribram meteorite was the first for which a precise trajectory could be computed within the solar system. The freshly-landed meteorite also provided invaluable specimen material from which to assess space radiation.

The reports of this success induced other countries to set up an extensive network of observation posts. The United States set up its prairie network, Canada a separate network of its own, while on this side of the Atlantic the European Sky Network consisted of fifty observation posts in Britain, 25 in the south of the Federal Republic and twenty in Czechoslovakia.

The US network was phased out in 1975, but the Soviet Union has since started to install about forty observation posts covering an area of approximately one million square kilometres extending from the Northern Caucasus to the Ukraine.

Most of the cameras run fairly inexpensively. In this country, for instance, the network is run by the Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute, Heidelberg, and uses Leica cameras with special lenses.

The exposures record the stars and brighter meteorites, which are the ones scientists are mainly interested in. The cameras are located in isolated areas where there is little light that could interfere with the quality of exposures.

As a rule the observation posts are on lonely farms, where they are serviced and films collected once a month.

One film or another arrives in Heidelberg almost daily. If anything promising seems to have happened all films are immediately collected and evaluated to try to estimate the trajectory. Later on experts may travel to the area to see whether the meteorite has landed.

The network in this country comes up with a possible find every other month or so, but the four teams of scouts who have been sent out whenever the need arose since the network was set up in 1968 have not yet found any traces of a meteorite.

The best prospect to date seemed to be near Leutkirch in the Allgäu mountains, Bavaria, on 30 April 1974 when a metorite travelling at 12.2 kilometres a second might, it was estimated, come down to earth still weighing fourteen kilograms. But no, nothing at all was found. Meteorite observation networks in other countries have proved equally unsuccessful. In 1970 a solitary meteority was sighted near Lost City, Idaho, that was reckoned to weigh 25 kilos on landing. Pieces were found to a total weight of 17,3 kilos, allowing scientists to reconstruct its shape. That, however, was it, and when the observation networks were set up scientists had hoped to make a couple of finds or so a year. For up to twelve years observations have been conducted over an area mounting to nearly a tenth of the Earth's land mass, so the results have been none too spectacular. Film evaluation has proved immensely useful, it is gratifying to be able to report. It is supervised by computer in Czechoslovakia. Large meteorites, it appears, make a beeline for the Earth fairly frequently, and the larger they are, the more of them there are.

This tallies with the theory about the formation of the planets according to which planets are the result of meteorites bunching up due to the force of gravity.

If this is the case, the remaining meteorites within the solar system must steadily be increasing in size at the expense of the smaller ones.

Surprisingly too, meteorites are by no means invariably the combinations of iron, stone and carbon we have been taught to believe by textbooks and museums.

Nearly half of them appear to resemble comets with a density of between 0.2 to one gram per cubic centimetre, which means that they consist mainly of frozen gas, ice and dust.

The largest meteorite so far observed was sighted over Western Czechoslovakia on 4 December 1974. It weighed an estimated 200 tons but with a density of only about 0.2 grams per cubic centimetre it must, basically, have been a small comet.

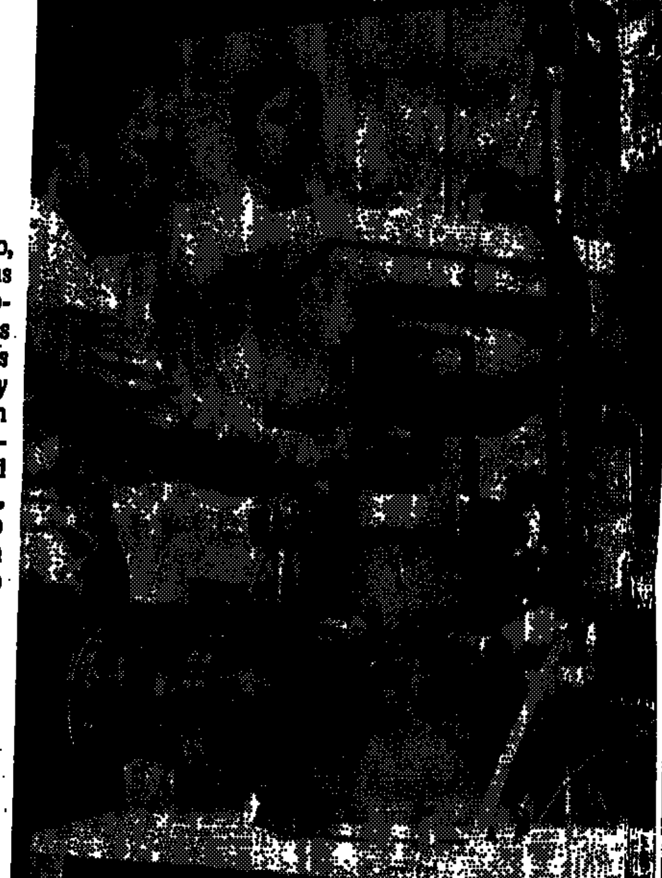
The Sumava fireball, as it was dubbed, hit the Earth's atmosphere at a speed of 26 kilometres a second and burnt up in three seconds flat and a blaze of glory at an altitude of 55 kilometres.

Had it been a meteorite consisting mainly of rock and been travelling at a slightly lower speed of, say, ten to twelve kilometres a second, it would conceivably have left behind a crater several hundred metres in diameter.

It is only the large, slow meteorites that stand much of a chance of penetrating the atmosphere. Most meteorites burn up, leaving nothing but clouds of cosmic dust — up to 100 tons a day, according to Dr Keith Hindley in the *New Scientist*.

Nine tenths of this total is caused by the larger meteorites, our frequent near visitors, Dr Hindley claims. They, and not interplanetary particles, are the main cause of what is termed cosmic dust.

Harald Steinert
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1977)



Space simulator – table-top model

This stainless steel container perched on a laboratory table-top in Gummersbach, near Cologne, is the nucleus of a unique project in which the Science Ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia has invested 330,000 deutschmarks. It houses a space simulator in which temperatures and pressure can be generated to simulate conditions in outer space. Professor Rainer Hütt (left) and three associates spent more than two years designing and constructing the table-top simulator, which will be used for experiments with rare and expensive materials such as beryllium and tungsten. Samples are lent by domestic and foreign manufacturers. In comparison with osmium, for instance, gold is worth no more than the scrap metal merchant's any old iron. (Photo: Steickmann)

Euro-Spacelab astronauts sought

Would-be astronauts please note. The Federal Aerospace Research Institute and the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology advertised in a variety of newspapers on 16 April for applicants to man the European Spacelab on its inaugural mission in July 1980.

By 30 July the Aerospace Research Institute has to submit the names and particulars of six candidates from this country to the European Space Agency.

Esa will then shortlist six applicants from the names submitted by its ten member-countries and put forward their names to Nasa, the US aeronautics and space administration. Eventually Europe's first astronaut will orbit the Earth for a week in the company of an American counterpart.

Applicants must not be older than forty-seven. They must be between five foot and six foot three (1.53 and 1.90 metres) in height and speak perfect English.

They must also have a clean bill of health and hold a university degree in science or engineering. A panel of Aerospace Research Association experts will screen applicants in the course of three-week tests.

(Die Welt, 20 April 1977)

■ MEDICINE

Cancer strikes 1,500 children in Germany each year



Some 1,500 children fall ill with cancer in the Federal Republic of Germany each year. Leukaemias and tumors of the lymph system top the list with 38 per cent of the cases. Apart from accidents, malignant blood diseases are thus the most common causes of death among children.

But certain congenital tumors of the kidneys, the nerve cells, tissues and bones are also relatively frequent.

Although rather little is known about the causes of these diseases, medicine is no longer entirely helpless where they are concerned.

Considerable therapeutic successes have been achieved since the sicties with the introduction of highly effective drugs which prevent the growth of cells. Another major contribution consists in the progress made in the field of radiation technology and improved surgical and anaesthesiological techniques.

All this has considerably helped to improve the therapeutic success in cases of leukaemia, malignant lymph growths and congenital tumors compared with the therapy of twenty or thirty years ago.

But all these successes would not have been possible without close cooperation between pediatricians specialising in haematology and oncology.

The reason for this cooperation is quite obvious: Although the number of cancer cases in childhood is rather high, cases of malignant blood diseases and congenital tumors are relatively rare.

Of one million West Germans, only 24 children aged up to 15 are affected by these diseases.

The rarity of these diseases and the peculiarities of each individual case not only make an accurate diagnosis difficult but also hamper therapy prospects, since many pediatricians have insufficient experience in treating these ailments.

These facts greatly contributed towards the formation in 1966 of the "Work Group for Leukaemia Research and Therapy in Children".

The Group now encompasses 40 pediatric clinics in the Federal Republic of Germany. Its members meet twice a year for the purpose of exchanging experiences.

This helps coordinate diagnostic and therapeutic methods which, in the final analysis, benefit the patients, since only a great number of treatments permit conclusions to be drawn.

Intensive leukaemia therapy, which invariably causes side effects, requires constant checkups by experienced doctors, nurses and medical technicians.

The Work Group has meanwhile worked out therapy procedures for various types of leukaemia and for a number of other tumors in children, thus making sure that the greatest possible therapeutic success is achieved.

It soon turned out that these measures were only the beginning of further activities on the part of the Group. But it also became obvious that further steps towards coordinating work are necessary.

And, above all, it became obvious that additional research into leukaemia is necessary and that this research must take place in close regional and supra-regional cooperation with all related fields of medicine such as pediatric surgery, pediatric radiology, X-ray therapy and pathology.

Kiel, for instance, has a lymphogranuloma register where a team of physicians headed by Professor K. Lennert collects all relevant data of malignant blood diseases that occurred in this country during the past few years.

This work has meanwhile led to an internationally recognised re-classification of the various leukaemia types and has thus imparted new impulses to clinical research. The register has increasingly become the basis of all further work in the field of leukaemia and malignant lymphogranulomas.

The Work Group for Leukaemia Research and Therapy in Children has now been in existence for 10 years.

The review of the work now presented by presented by Professor G. Landbeck, Hamburg, is interesting in more than one way. As a result of children suffering from leukaemia, the Group was in a position to carry out 23 research projects costing DM 1.2 million.

These funds have above all contributed towards organising supra-regional planning, continuous international contacts and have helped to promote pediatric-oncological research in this country to such an extent that it need not fear comparison on an international level.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1977)

Bad teeth can cause sex problems, says neurologist

Sexual disturbances in both men and women can be caused by dead or infected teeth as well as by other painful inflammations in the head and other parts of the body. These facts were pointed out by the neurologist Dr Armin Knolle at the 28th Annual Congress of the German Medical Work Group for Infection Research in Bad Nauheim.

According to Dr Knolle, some 20 per cent of exogenous (externally-caused) sexual disturbances are due to such causes. But it would be wrong to search for infections in the 80 per cent of psychologically motivated sexual disturbances.

At the congress, which was attended by some 100 physicians from the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria Dr Felix Perger, Vienna, reported about the links between "dormant infections and absenteeism due to illness in industrial medicine."

In a comparative study involving the Austrian workers in the tobacco industry who were observed for 14 years, Dr Perger found that there were five times as many rheumatic ailments among workers with dormant infections as among others. Predisposition for intestinal catarrhs and colds is 40 per cent higher among people with dormant infections.

Among the major factors in connection with dormant infections Dr Perger named, apart from the teeth, inflammations of tonsils and sinuses as well as latent apendicitis.

The diagnosis of these infected areas, which must usually be *dealt with by* surgery, can be carried out by X-rays as well as by a number of specialised laboratory tests. But these are so sophisticated that only few doctors avail themselves of them.

Udo Lorenz/dpa

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 18 April 1977)

Plastics can harm the skin, dermatologists warn

Dermatologists speaking at the recent congress of the German Dermatological Society in Cologne warned of carelessness with chemicals — especially packaging materials. Although such materials are not poisonous as a rule, they can nevertheless affect the skin of particularly sensitive people.

Professor K. E. Malten of Nijmegen, Holland, listed many examples where the skin was sensitised by certain types of styrofoam which led to eczemas and certains allergy symptoms. Industry is fully aware of such dangers and has for some time been taking the necessary precautions to protect its workers.

Professor G. Weltmann, Bonn, pointed to certain industrial medicine measures resulting from his research work into the so-called PVC diseases caused by polyvinylchloride. Today, workers are no longer endangered by PVC which only a few years ago was a spectre of the plastics industry. Now it is the final consumer who is threatened.

Professor Malten pointed out that many factories which process plastics are still in the dark as to how to protect their workers. But the dermatologists granted them that it is anything but easy to know which of the substances or combinations of substances cause allergic skin reactions.

Frequently very small quantities suffice to cause a skin eruption. On the other hand, however, industry is reluctant to divulge the exact composition of some of its products, especially where certain dyes and paints are concerned — and this has led to exzemas, as for instance among printers.

Endangered are also people who come into contact with modern materials without working in the factories that produce them. This applies to workers who insulate walls with styrofoam as it does to users of cosmetics that are packaged in tubes coated with certain resins.

It also applies to house-painters who constantly work with epoxides. But housewives, too, are in jeopardy because many detergents are likely to affect the skin. According to Professor Malten these people are not sufficiently warned of the dangers.

But allergic skin reactions are not caused only by modern chemicals. An over-sensitive skin can be affected by any number of substances found in the environment.

Professor G. Lüders of Tübingen reported about a disease frequently found in gardeners, especially in the spring when they have cut large quantities of narcissus. They often develop an eczema between the fingers which is due to a reaction to the narcissus sap that is released when the stems are cut.

Metals in direct contact with the skin can also lead to skin diseases. Thus, for instance, the upper button of tight blue jeans, which is made of a nickel alloy, frequently creates a button-sized eczema if it is permitted to come into direct contact with the skin.

Jewellery purportedly made of silver is frequently responsible for an itchy eczema which particularly affects young girls.

Many allergies are caused by inhaling flour, wood dust, animal hair and pollen. All these ailments are evidently due to a lack of resistance and can only be cured by avoiding all contact with the substances responsible.

Where these substances have to do with a patient's occupation, a change of job or profession is called for.

Among occupational diseases, skin ailments rank second only after ailments caused by noise. In 1974 alone some 8,000 workers who applied for retraining or premature retirement as the result of occupational skin diseases were registered.

As Professor H.J. Bandmann, Munich, pointed out, this frequently entails a step down the social ladder. Very frequently the patient forgets about his disease and the reason for his retraining, and the eczemas reappear because he has carelessly exposed himself to the substances that were responsible for the disease in the first place.

As a result, the dermatologist not only has to treat the disease, but also has to continue guiding the patient for many years after the treatment has been successfully concluded. As in the case of diabetics, the patient must gradually learn to live with his condition.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 April 1977)

10 per cent of children eat too much

According to latest research results, ten per cent of West German children suffer from obesity. This has been pointed out by the president of the Lower Saxony Medical Association, Dr Gerhard Jungmann, in connection with World Health Day.

One of the causes of obesity in children lies in emotional disorders as a result of which the child eats excessively, the food being a sort of ersatz pacifier.

But family eating habits must not be underestimated. To make matters worse, obesity isolates a child who, out of frustration, then eats more — thus closing the vicious circle.

dpa

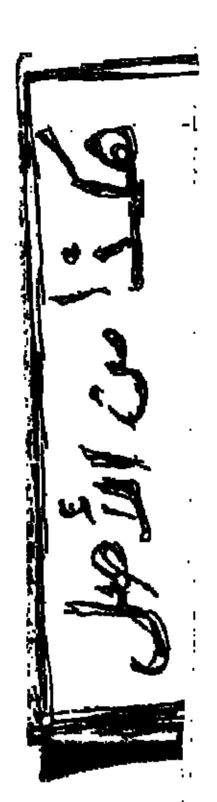
(Die Welt, 6 April 1977)

Amalgam safe, say dentists

The Federation of German Dentists has rebutted the contention put forward by an Austrian pathologist that the mercury in fillings used by dentists causes paradonthosis.

Researchers of the German Society of Dental Surgery and of the German Society for Paradonthology have established that there is no proof of a connection between amalgam fillings and paradonthosis. Moreover, the researchers pointed out that the use of these filling compounds is permissible without restriction.

(Die Welt, 15 April 1977)



■ HISTORY

Unique salvage operation to raise 1,000-year-old sunken Viking ship

Haithabu, a major Viking port on the Baltic, lies firmly embedded under feet of silt in the Schlei estuary about two miles south of Schleswig.

A thousand years ago it was a flourishing city and the Holy Roman Empire's leading Baltic port and trade link with Scandinavia.

In the mid-eleventh century it was destroyed, and all that now remains are a few rotten ship's planks, mast sections, bits and pieces of wood and remnants of piles driven into the earth as foundations.

Apart from occasional finds of this nature, usually brought to the surface by divers, the entire port of Haithabu seemed to have been engulfed by the bed of the Baltic.

Yet for nearly three centuries Haithabu was the most important Viking base in northern Central Europe and a hub of trade between the Rhineland and Scandinavia. It was, indeed, the first port of international importance to be established on the German coastline.

It was the meeting-place of merchants and seafarers from Scandinavia, Britain and the Baltic, from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Frisia and the Franconian empire.

Haithabu was a port frequented by ships carrying anything and everything that was considered valuable in the Middle Ages: swords, iron ore, glass, ceramics, cloth, jewellery, wine, herrings, whale fat, amber, furs, potery, wood, millstones — and slaves taken prisoner by the Vikings on their raids.

Twenty-two years ago archaeologists made a find among the seabed ruins of what was once Haithabu that might shed an immediate light on the glory of the Viking era if only it could be retrieved intact.

At a point where the water is only



sixteen feet deep the silt of the estuary has preserved the remains of a Viking ship that sank in the tenth century. The sunken ship will, archaeologists hope, provide an unsurpassed glimpse of everyday life a thousand years ago.

The wreck appears to contain the skeletons of the crew, their armour and equipment. A Viking ship that sank with all hands in battle ought to prove a mine of information about shipbuilding, shipping, arms, the Viking way of life, culture and trade.

First, however, the wreck must be brought to the surface. Archaeologists and engineers are busy laying the groundwork for a complex and expensive salvage operation on a scale hitherto unprecedented in Europe.

A specially designed diving bell will be lowered on to the outline of the ship prior to prising it loose and gingerly hoisting it to the surface.

The operation will be masterminded from a floating salvage platform in a backwater of the Schlei, so Schleswig will soon be hosting one of the most spectacular ventures ever undertaken in submarine archaeology.

For the archaeologists and engineers associated with the project it will be a premiere, this being the first time the technique has ever been tried out. So time and money will be invested in no small measure.

Schleswig-Holstein state museum of prehistory and early history is responsible for the project, which is being supervised by Kurt Schietzel, head of Viking research and medieval settlements at Schleswig state museum.

Construction of the salvage platform, the salvage operation itself, scientific analysis and evaluation and the conservation of the waterlogged wreck will take between six and seven years, Kurt Schietzel reckons.

At current estimates the operation will cost five and a half million deutschmarks, to be paid by the Federal government, Schleswig-Holstein and the Krupp Foundation.

Technical preliminaries have already begun. The sunken ship is to be surveyed this summer. Next year the diving bell will be built. The salvage operation proper should get under way in 1979.

The ship will then need to be restored and conserved, an operation that will take several years. It will probably be exhibited in a special hall of its own, but the final decision on this point has yet to be made by the Schleswig-Holstein state assembly in Kiel.

The project will require thorough preliminaries in submarine technology. The salvage procedure has been devised by the Federal Aerospace Research Institute, which has also supervised research into diving and pressure problems.

Hans-Dietrich Fust, an Aerospace Research Institute engineer, explains the details as follows:

"The principle is a combination and modification of two well-known techniques, the diving bell and the caisson. The diving bell is used to carry out work on the seabed or river bed, the caisson usually for laying the foundations of bridge pylons and the like."

"The caisson is a steel cage with high pressure in the interior which can be lowered into the ground. The modified procedure provides for a diving bell to be lowered over the object to be salvaged. The seabed is then dredged and the bell rammed into the surrounds."

"Once the bell has reached the lowest point of the object to be salvaged, the entire section of seabed is raised to the surface. Thus an entire wreck, including the surrounding silt, can be retrieved intact."

This procedure has decided advantages from the archaeologist's or salvage engineer's viewpoint, as Hans-Dietrich Fust explains:

"What is new is that objects silted up in the seabed can be brought to light on dry ground without the aid of divers. What is more, archaeologists can dig away layer by layer, gaining a clear idea of location, period and so on.

"The object is not silted up any more. It can, indeed, be retrieved intact and brought to the surface. It will not sustain irreparable damage in the course of the salvage operation, and wind and waves can hardly do much damage under water."

Archaeologists are convinced that the new technique will prove an effective, harmless and invaluable research procedure. In Haithabu it is the only feasible option.

Divers who tried to probe the sunken harbour in 1968 could not see a thing once they had dug below a depth of a metre and a half. Pumping sections of the river bed dry also presents insuperable problems.

The diving bell, on the other hand, will enable scientific study to be conducted under conditions of relative comfort. It will be twenty metres (65ft) long, four metres (13ft) wide and 2.50 metres (a little over eight feet) tall and fit conveniently over the entire ship.

A submarine laboratory can be set up on the seabed, with an elevator to and from the platform. The platform will incorporate machinery, pressure equipment, hydraulic gear and work and leisure facilities for the scientists and technicians.

The ship will be raised to the surface in a mere four weerecord. Previous ventures of this kind have taken far longer to bring to a successful conclusion.

Dieter Neuenfeld

(Deutsche Zeitung, 15 April 1977)

Hamburg trio in latest bid to salvage freighter wreck

For fifteen years now the wreck of the *Ondo* has been stranded on the Grosser Vogelsand, quicksands in the Elbe estuary.. One salvage firm after another has tried to retrieve the freighter, which is now listing at an angle of fifty-one degrees. All attempts have failed.

The latest attempt is being masterminded by a trio of Hamburg divers. Their daredevil venture seems destined to be the most successful yet.

The *Ondo* ran aground on 6 December 1961 en route from West Africa to Leningrad with a cargo of cocoa. Captain Farquar ran into heavy weather in the Elbe estuary and urgently requested a pilot.

But the pilots' tug sank in a force twelve gale. Hamburg pilot Ulrich Engbroch died, and with him the Cuxhaven seamen Szaknis and Jetzi. The *Ondo* ran aground on the quicksands.

Five ocean-going tugs with 14,000 horse power between them tried for days to pull the freighter clear, but Captain Farquar eventually abandoned his ship. It was obviously a dead loss.

The wreck of the *Ondo*, clearly visible from the main shipping lanes, has been regarded ever since as a challenge to the ingenuity of salvage firms. It was, after all, a lucrative proposition.

The first firm to accept the challenge was Hamburg's Bugsier-Reederei. Their



The wreck of the *Ondo* (Photo: Archiv)

salvage teams spent four years trying to shift the wreck, but it steadfastly refused to budge. So they were forced to abandon the attempt.

Then Helmut Wulf, a salvage operator from Brake on the Weser, bought the wreck for 50,000 marks with the idea of pumping the holds full of compressed air and righting the freighter to tug it away.

Wulf reckoned he stood to net a clear six million marks, but the wind, the weather and the quicksands foiled him. He ended up several hundred thousand marks in the red.

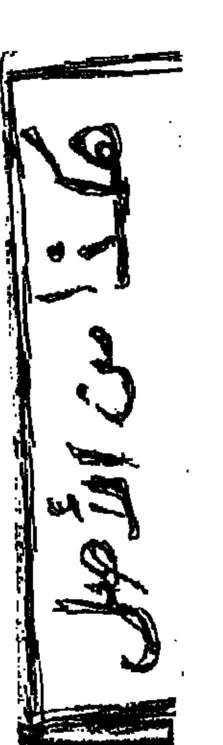
Gerrit Elfering, a Dutch salvage man, was the next to try his hand. He paid 40,000 marks for the wreck, but also failed in the attempt, throwing in the towel after four years more. The pundits concluded that nothing more could be done. That, it seemed, was that.

Say not the struggle naught availeth, said 45-year-old Hamburg diver Heinz Fabian. Two years ago he bought the *Ondo* for 30,000 marks for one final attempt.

"I reckon I only took up the challenge because everyone else had failed," he says. "I was determined to prove it could be done."

If anyone seemed likely to succeed it was Fabian. In the early post-war years he salvaged German U-boats off the

Continued on page 15



■ SPORT

Franz Beckenbauer, soccer star who is admired, but not loved

Munich soccer star Franz Beckenbauer, who holds the record number of caps for his country — 103 —, has signed for the New York Cosmos for a reputed record transfer fee of seven million deutschmarks. Beckenbauer, 31, will play his first game for the New York club at the end of May. He is unlikely to play again for his country.

Franz Beckenbauer is admired by soccer fans but not really popular in the folk-hero way that other soccer stars are and have been. He makes it all seem so easy that he frequently conveys the impression of not really putting his heart into each and every game.

Beckenbauer's brand of football artistry is viewed with suspicion in his native country. He is not adulated in the way Uwe Seeler of Hamburg used to be or Berti Vogts of Mönchengladbach still is.

Uwe and Berti (who, incidentally, is tipped as Franz's successor to captain the national team) are tireless fighters who are more in keeping with what Germans expect of their soccer heroes.

Franz Beckenbauer cuts an elegant figure in the playing enclosure. He was once nicknamed Kaiser Franz and the epithet has stuck. It undeniably implies an indirect accusation of arrogance, which is hardly an endearing characteristic.

Both on and off the field he tends to keep his distance. He is not keen on the hail fellow well met approach and the blood, sweat, toil and tears of thrilling duels for possession of the ball are not to his liking either.

On the field he seems to sport an invisible version of the evening dress he thoroughly enjoys wearing at the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth or the Opernball in Vienna.

He was recently invited to attend the wedding reception of President Sadat's daughter in Cairo, which seems very much in keeping with the generally accepted image of Beckenbauer as a man who would like to get on in life.

Franz Beckenbauer's family background was nothing to write home about and he has spent his twelve years at the top in professional soccer determined to make the grade socially too.

He has lived a life of luxury backed by a substantial income and earned star appeal over the years. Millions of people have read about Beckenbauer and his family in the gossip columns and either respected or envied him for having made a name for himself.

Gradually as much importance has come to be attached to his views on one subject or another as to his performance on the field of play. There was an uproar when Franz confided that he vastly admired Franz Josef Strauss but was none too keen on Willy Brandt, for instance.

As for his memoirs, entitles *Einer wie ich* (Someone Like Me), they were earnestly reviewed by leading critics even though Franz would be the first to admit that they were not intended as serious literature.

Beckenbauer has never made any bones about his double-edged relationship with his pulic. When he goes through a sticky patch and is not in peak form he is invariably slated by the critics.

The past few weeks have been a case in point. Bayern Munich, the Bundesliga club he captains, have not been faring at all well and Franz Beckenbauer has been subjected to broadsides of criticism in one paper after another.

He was not only accused of being past his best as a soccer player but also of tax evasion, and rumour had it that his marriage too was on the rocks.

One can well believe that not only the Cosmos' lucrative transfer bid amounting to seven million deutsch-



Franz Beckenbauer (Photo: Archiv)

marks, or so everyone is saying, but also the public criticism of his sporting and private life have decided Franz to sign for the New York soccer club.

The news has been greeted with regret, but also with catcalls, as though opinion-makers could not wait to topple Franz from his pedestal.

No matter what you may feel about Beckenbauer the man there can be no doubt whatever that in his 103 appearances for his country and countless games for Bayern Franz Beckenbauer has pkayed a crucial role in get.ing soccer in the Federal Republic where it is today.

Yet his fame remains marred by the fact that he has failed to earn a secure place in soccer fans' hearts.

Steffen Haffner

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 April 1977)

Continued from page 14

coast of Norway. He later scoured the Elbe for rogue mines. In 1955, still only twenty-four, he set up as an independent salvage operator.

Two other men, Max Ahrens, 26, and Gerhard Walius, 25, are in on the venture. The three spend much of their time at work, setting gingerly out from Cuxhaven on board a rebuilt Second World War tank ferry. Unlike their predecessors, the Hamburg trio are not bothering to try to refloat the freighter: Instead they are cutting it up into chunks for sale as scrap metal.

They can now fairly claim to know every last rivet on board the *Ondo*. Every footstep on the hulk, listing as it is at a crazy angle, is a hazardous venture.

It would be only too easy to fall overboard into the raging seas, and the work is hard, cutting holes in one-inch sheet steel. "When you work out here you soon realise what an insignificant creature Man is," Fabian says.

Sometimes they spend long periods, up to a fortnight, on board. "You can't stand it any longer," Fabian reckons. "Your sense of equilibrium goes all askew. Once, when I got home, the pictures hanging straight on the walls got on my nerves. I had to hang them crooked for my peace of mind. Just imagine that!"

The three Hamburg men are the first salvage operators for fifteen years who have worked on the *Ondo* at a profit. So far they have wrested 450 tons of steel from the hulk, which has covered the costs — "and we are not going to give up now, danger or no danger," Heinz Fabian declares.

Michael Wolf

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 14 April 1977)

Crucial season for Gold medal walker Bernd Kannenberg

Bernd Kannenberg, 34, who won Olympic gold in the fifty-kilometre walk at Munich in 1972, admits that he all but wrecked his physique, but not by taking anobolic steroids or similar muscle-building drugs.

He simply went through too demanding schedule in preparation for Munich and ought, as he now acknowledges, to have given his body a rest the following year. "I would have saved myself endless trouble if only I had done so", he concedes.

The world class walker from Fürth in Bavaria, who moved with the Bundeswehr sports college from Sonthofen, Bavaria, to Warendorf, Westphalia, on 1 April, has certainly been spared nothing over the past three seasons.

Loin trouble kept him walking well below par, but he braved the pain to win silver in the twenty kilometres at the European championships in Rome in 1974. Ten months later, however, he was forced to abandon an attempt to break the world record for fifty kilometres.

He underwent surgery, but the relief proved only temporary, and four months before the Montreal Olympics he was plagued by virus trouble.

Kannenberg strained every last nerve to earn a place in the Olympic team, but in Montreal he was forced to retire, sadly realising that even a gold medal no longer counts for much four years later.

Last autumn Bernd Kannenberg was in poorer shape than ever. Every step gave him pain. In late November he underwent further thigh surgery and now, at long last, he can walk again.

He has yet to regain his erstwhile speed, but does feel more confident and plans to put in training in his own good time, with a view to entering for the twenty-kilometre championships in August.

This season will be a crucial one for Bernd Kannenberg, who is a warrant officer in the Bundeswehr. "If I make it back to the top," he says, "I may even think in terms of Moscow and the 1980 Olympics."

Kannenberg is not yet ready to retire. He is determined to see just once more where his limits lie. "But if other walkders I used to beat hands down show me a clean pair of heels I shall be retiring," he adds. "There will then be no more point in going to all the trouble."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 April 1977)